

MUSTANG DAILY

1916

CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY

2006

TODAY'S WEATHER

High **73°**

Low **47°**



Luke Llamas heads to Provo, Utah for the West Regionals

IN SPORTS, 16

Relive the fabulous '50s at the Paso Robles West Coast Kustoms' Car Show

IN DIVERSIONS, 7



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NICK CAMACHO MUSTANG DAILY

Mustang Village is one of a few off-campus housing developments that offers an alternative to the on-campus dorms.

Housing crunch remains tight, Poly Canyon project to provide relief

Amy Dierdorff
MUSTANG DAILY

Imagine leaving home for the first time to start life in a new place, at a new school and living by yourself for the first time without knowing a soul. It's estimated that this will soon be a reality for hundreds of newly-admitted Cal Poly freshmen.

Though Cal Poly will be unable to offer housing to all of its admitted freshmen and transfer students this fall, Housing and Residential Life said the new Poly Canyon Village Housing Project, already under way, signals a much brighter future for campus housing.

"From what has been reported by (the Admissions Office), about 77 percent of students who are invited to Cal Poly turn us down because we can't guarantee them two years of housing," said Preston Allen, executive director for housing.

The housing shortage is not a new issue to Cal Poly, which hous-

es approximately 3,600 students on campus. Admissions received about 31,000 applications from prospective freshmen and transfer students for fall 2006, and made approximately 13,000 offers for admission, according to the Admissions Office Web site.

With approximately 2,700 beds, the new Poly Canyon Housing

Project will almost double the amount of on-campus housing by its scheduled completion in 2009, making Cal Poly the largest housing program in the CSU system. Housing officials expect the first four buildings, with 1,167 beds, to be finished and available to students by 2008.

"I think it's probably going to be the most exciting thing to happen to Cal Poly since they put in Grand Avenue and Perimeter Road," Allen said.

The Poly Canyon Village housing complex will have four- or five-bedroom apartments, each with a full kitchen, much like the Cerro Vista Apartments that see Housing, page 2

By the NUMBERS

77%

Students who turn down Cal Poly due to lack of on-campus housing.

3,600

students Cal Poly currently houses on campus.

2,700

beds in the new Poly Canyon Housing Project.

Technology survey results influence improved registration system

Kelly Cope
MUSTANG DAILY

Cal Poly students will return in fall to a newly-improved, easy-to-use POWER class registration process thanks to input from 500 students for the yearly Student Campus Computing Committee (SC3) Information Technology Services (ITS) SWEEPS survey.

As of April, this year's survey results have been tabulated and changes are being implemented to improve the campus's technology experience.

SC3 Chair Todd Maki said that the results were what the committee expected.

"We're students, so we are pretty much on target," he said.

Decluttering the my.calpoly por-

tal is a major student concern. ITS plans to give students the ability to personalize their portals so that only information pertaining to each student's specific major shows up on the page.

According to the survey, "high priorities" pertaining to the Oracle calendar system included the "abili-

see Survey, page 2

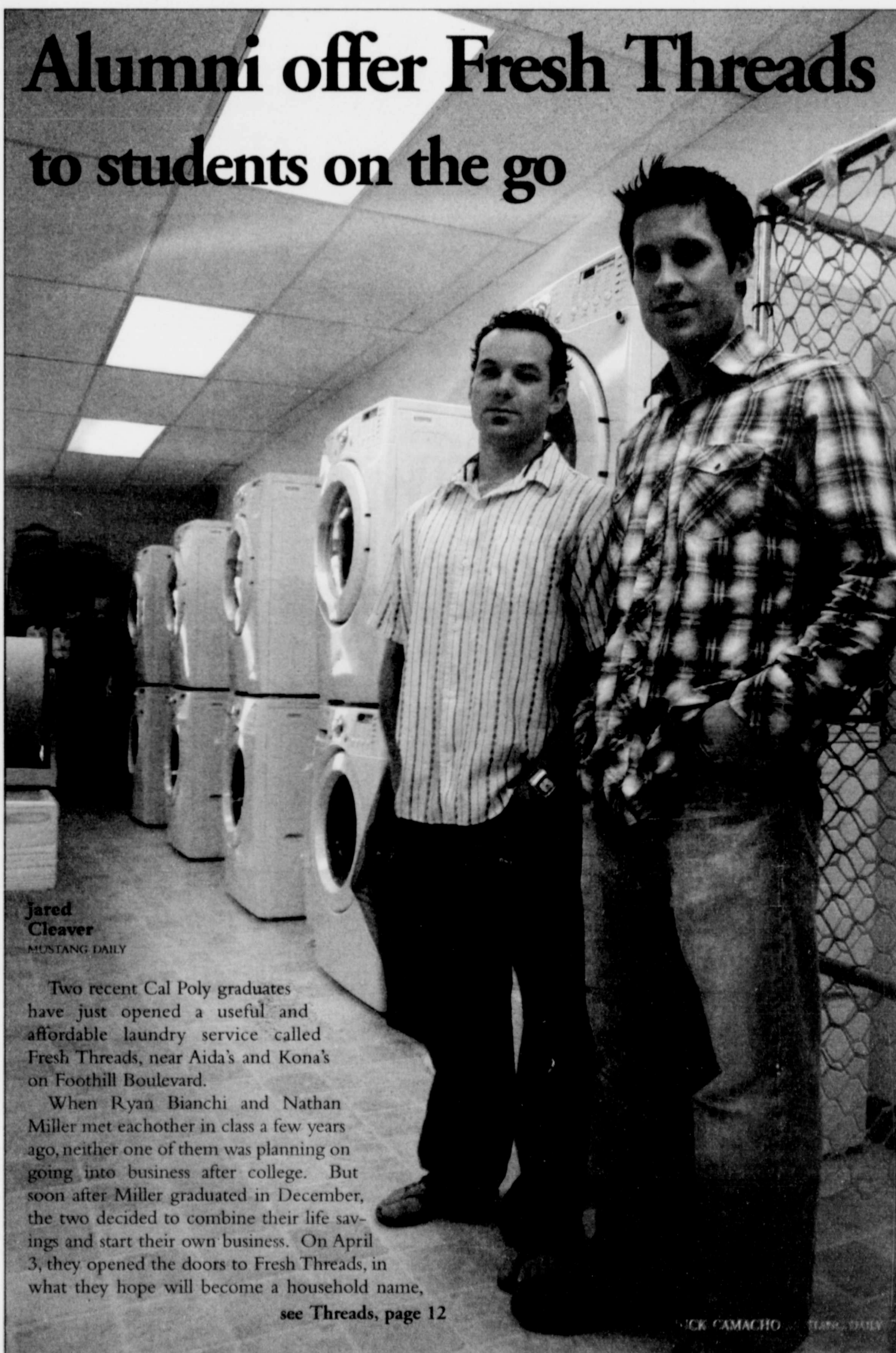
Alumni offer Fresh Threads to students on the go

Jared Cleaver
MUSTANG DAILY

Two recent Cal Poly graduates have just opened a useful and affordable laundry service called Fresh Threads, near Aida's and Kona's on Foothill Boulevard.

When Ryan Bianchi and Nathan Miller met each other in class a few years ago, neither one of them was planning on going into business after college. But soon after Miller graduated in December, the two decided to combine their life savings and start their own business. On April 3, they opened the doors to Fresh Threads, in what they hope will become a household name,

see Threads, page 12



NICK CAMACHO MUSTANG DAILY

Housing

continued from page 1

opened in fall 2003. The complex will also contain two parking structures, providing approximately 1,900 new parking spaces and a village center with a swimming pool, mail center, fitness facilities, study space and retail food.

The completion of Poly Canyon Village will make it possible for Cal Poly to offer a two-year housing guarantee to all incoming students by 2009. All admitted freshmen and sophomores who live on campus as freshmen will be guaranteed on-campus housing; sophomores, transfers and upperclassmen living off campus will be able to apply after the on-campus student application and payment process is complete, according to Cal Poly Housing and Residential Life.

Until 2009, however, admitted

freshmen and transfer students will have to find other housing options and it's becoming increasingly difficult, said Tim Kershner, property manager for Stenner Glen student living, which is already full for next year.

In 1992, Stenner Glen founded

housing crunch.

"It's a hassle for the freshmen kids," Kershner said about finding housing off-campus for students who are new to the San Luis Obispo area.

However, Kershner thinks that Stenner Glen and other developments in the Off-Campus Housing Association, like Mustang Village, are a good option for freshmen and transfers who are unable to secure on-campus housing.

"We're physically closer to the classrooms than some on-campus dormitories," Kershner said.

Kershner also said that students can gain a

strong social foundation comparable to living in on-campus dormitories because they host so many events for their residents including dances, movie showings, special dinners and basketball tournaments. Residents can also get guidance from Stenner Glen's Resident Assistants, most of whom are upperclassmen.

I think (the Poly Canyon Village housing project) is probably going to be the most exciting thing to happen to Cal Poly since they put in Grande Avenue and Perimeter Road.

—Preston Allen

executive director for housing

the Off-Campus Housing Association, which includes a number of other local housing developments and meets with Cal Poly on a monthly basis. It is the only complex designed as a residence hall specifically for Cal Poly students.

Next year is the first year Stenner Glen will not be open to Cuesta students because of the

Survey

continued from page 1

ty to schedule meetings with other students, ease of creating meetings (click and drag)" and "readability."

Sentiments about the e-mail system widely varied.

"I think it works fine," recreation administration senior Gabe Uribe said. "You can send e-mail, (and) you can receive e-mail."

However, Uribe said he uses Yahoo! mail because it blocks spam e-mail better than Cal Poly's system, by placing it in a separate "bulk mail" folder from the inbox.

Music sophomore Michael Kelly had a low opinion of the original e-mail system, implemented before the newer Oracle system, and he has since stopped using the Oracle system entirely as a result.

"I think it sucks. You can't orga-

nize anything easily. Everything's pretty antiquated," Kelly said.

He also felt that there was not enough storage space for old e-mails, and that they were hard to find when he needed to access them. However, these problems have been solved, or at least addressed, as a result of the annual survey.

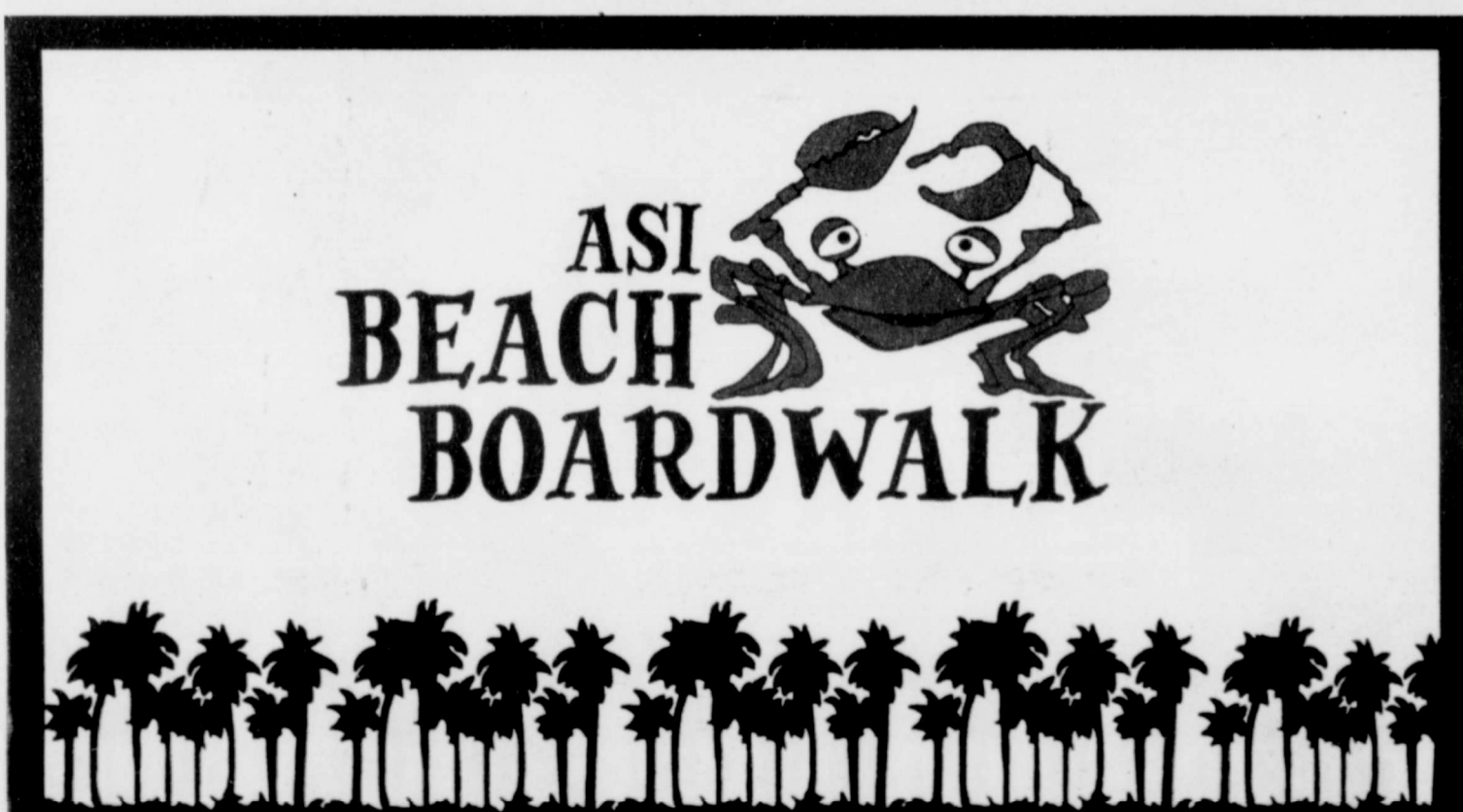
SC3 will work in conjunction with the Instructional Advisory Committee on Computing and the Administrative Advisory Committee on Computing to make the desires expressed in the survey a reality.

Previous survey results have produced the portal (both the original and the newer version), improvements within the e-mail system and even wireless Internet on campus.

"We're the reason (for) wireless (Internet) on campus," Maki said.



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		7	1				3	
3			4	2				
		9			7	5		2
		2					5	7
	9						1	
4	3					9		
8		3	9			2		
				5	6			3
	6				2	4		

MEDIUM # 20

Solution, tips, and computer program at www.sudoku.com



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www.farrellsmyth.com

WHO SAID THAT?

Fear is a question; What are you afraid of, and why? Just as the seed of health is in illness, because illness contains information, your fears are a treasure house of self-knowledge if you explore them.

— Marilyn Ferguson

With reasonable men I will reason; with humane men I will plea; but to tyrants I will give no quarter, nor waste arguments where they will certainly be lost.

— William Lloyd Garrison

Wordly Wise

Sinecure: An office or position that involves little work or responsibility.

BREAKING NEWS
UPDATED AT THE SPEED OF COLLEGE LIFE
www.mustangdaily.net

The Face of



Cal Poly

Name: Leslie Bloom • **Year:** junior
Hometown: Mill Valley • **Major:** architecture

Favorites

Place in SLO: Tio Alberto's

Animal: Humpback whale, because they can support other life on them.

Activity: Skateboarding

Ninja Turtle: Leonardo

If You Could ...

— be any superhero, who would you be and why?

Gene Gray, because reading minds would be an interesting super power.

— go anywhere in the world, where would you go and why?

Peru. I want to go go to Machu Picchu because it is the epicenter of agriculture.

Other

— Shout out:

The Peach Street crew.

Under Four ... *or burning bridges?*

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State briefs

CALEXICO — Aftershocks jiggled part of the U.S.-Mexico border region Wednesday following a late-night moderate earthquake in northern Baja California.

The magnitude-5.4 temblor occurred at 9:20 p.m. Tuesday, one minute after a magnitude-3.9 tremor, the U.S. Geological Survey said. The magnitude of the main shock was raised after being initially estimated at 5.2.

The quakes were centered south of the border, about 26 miles southeast of Calexico, at a depth of 4 miles.

— The Associated Press

AGOURA HILLS — A brush fire blackened about an acre of rolling terrain Wednesday near the Los Angeles-Ventura County border, authorities said.

No homes were immediately threatened as the blaze burned through light-to-medium brush, said Los Angeles County Fire Department Inspector Sam Padilla.

The fire erupted shortly after 11:30 a.m. and about 30 firefighters, aided by water-dropping helicopters, responded.

— The Associated Press

CARMEL — The city has finally accepted a \$40,000 donation from a group of local women who raised the money by posing in various stages of undress for a calendar.

Mayor Sue McCloud and Fire Chief Andrew Miller accepted a check from the dozen women on Tuesday. The Carmel models, who were trying to raise money for fire station renovations, ranged in age from their 50s to their 80s.

— The Associated Press

Farmers seek to influence debate over immigration reform

Juliana Barbassa
ASSOCIATED PRESS

FRESNO — Growers facing a dwindling supply of farmworkers are pressing lawmakers in hopes of influencing the outcome of immigration reform measures before Congress to ensure they have a work force in the future.

Their efforts come as the U.S. Department of Agriculture issued a report last week that showed there are 4 percent fewer workers on American farms now than at this time last year. And last year's farm work force in the spring was already 10 percent smaller than the year before.

"We're for cracking down on the hiring of illegal immigrants and for homeland security," said Austin Perez, policy director for the American Farm Bureau Federation, the largest U.S. farm group. "But if it doesn't have a guest worker program, and doesn't allow farmers to maintain a work force ... we'd be looking at a huge production loss."

The majority of farmworkers are immigrants. California growers alone need 450,000 workers during peak harvest season. For farmers, a favorable outcome to the immigration debate will be one that continues to put workers in the fields picking everything from blueberries to watermelon.

"There are people out there now who are ready and willing to work, we just need a plan that lets them work," said Doug Mosebar, president of the California Farm Bureau Federation and a farmer who grows hay, squash, flowers, pumpkins and beef cattle on a ranch in Santa Ynez.

Farmers who would normally be spending spring days overseeing



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Salvador Andrade, left, moves his ladder so he can thin plum trees as farmer Kerry Whitson watches workers on Tuesday in Exeter, Calif. Farmers like Whitson are facing a dwindling supply of farmworkers like Andrade and are pressing lawmakers for immigration reform.

their fields are ferrying back and forth to Washington to lobby their representatives. Mosebar has visited Capitol Hill several times in recent months to make sure Congress keeps agriculture's needs in mind.

Voting records also suggest such efforts are paying off.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., had opposed a 2005 version of a bill allowing agricultural workers who had been here illegally to apply for residency, saying that as it was worded, it would be a "magnet for illegal immigration."

She later reversed course, sponsoring an amendment approved in March by the Senate Judiciary Committee that creates a path to legalization for up to 1.5 million agricultural workers over five years, if they can prove they've been working in the fields and paying their taxes.

On Monday, the Senate shot down another amendment that would have set a wage floor for the 1.5 million newly legal workers, a measure that was opposed by several agriculture trade groups.

California's House Republicans largely supported a House bill that would increase enforcement along the border without creating a path for workers to come in legally. But Reps. Devin Nunes, George Radanovich and Bill Thomas, who represent largely agricultural districts, opposed it.

The House bill, approved in December, has no provisions to bring in new agricultural workers legally. It would also increase the fines for employers who hire undocumented immigrants from \$10,000 to \$40,000, and create a 700-mile fence along the border.

That presents a scenario that

keeps farmers like Mosebar up at night.

"This issue has taken on a lot of emotional weight, created a lot of polarization on both sides," he said. "Our representatives are trying to do the right thing, but sometimes they receive a lot of pressure from those who don't agree with the direction we're going."

If the final legislation resembles that passed by the House, Kerry Whitson worries he will not be able to find the 125 workers he needs to harvest the plums, pluots, grapes and other fruit on his 900 acres in Tulare County.

"I just don't see the answer being a deportation of millions of people," he said. "They're part of our community, our business, our families. There's a problem, and it needs to be fixed, but in a comprehensive, workable way."

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National briefs

SALT LAKE CITY — Mexican President Vicente Fox said Wednesday that immigration is the most pressing challenge to the relationship between his country and the United States, but it also is their greatest opportunity.

Building a wall on the border is not the answer to illegal immigration into the United States, he said on his second day of a four-day visit to the western U.S.

— The Associated Press

NEW YORK — A Pakistani immigrant was convicted Wednesday of charges he plotted to blow up one of Manhattan's busiest subway stations in retaliation for the Abu Ghraib prison scandal.

A federal jury in Brooklyn deliberated two days before convicting Shahawar Matin Siraj of conspiracy and other charges. He faces up to life in prison.

The defense had sought to portray Siraj, 23, as an impressionable simpleton who was lured into a phony plot by a paid informant eager to earn his keep. Prosecutors disputed that claim, arguing that even if it was not the defendant's idea to bomb a subway station, no law-abiding citizen would have gone along with it.

— The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Senate voted on Wednesday to require safety upgrades at underground coal mines following fatal accidents in Kentucky and West Virginia, and House lawmakers pledged to act soon.

The measure would require coal mine operators to keep more emergency air supplies underground and to better seal off abandoned sections of mines.

Lawmakers said changes must be made following Saturday's explosion at a southeastern Kentucky mine that left five people dead. The accident occurred just a few months after a pair of accidents at West Virginia mines killed 14 people.

In all, 32 coal miners have been killed on the job so far this year. That is up from 22 killed throughout 2005, according to the federal Mine Safety and Health Administration.

— The Associated Press

CARBONDALE, Ill. — A year after the normally docile creatures attacked seven people on a university campus here, the deer have turned bullish again.

Three people were attacked by deer within minutes of each other Tuesday on a footpath at Southern Illinois University, police said Wednesday. One doe probably was responsible for all three attacks, said Todd Sigler, the school's public safety chief.

One worker needed stitches for a gash on his forehead, another suffered cuts, bruises and a sprained wrist, and a student was left with a scratched jaw. Two of the victims sought medical treatment.

— The Associated Press

Louisiana holding two-day hurricane drill aimed at avoiding repeat of Katrina chaos

Stacey Plaisance
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW ORLEANS — State and federal authorities tracked the path of a fictitious "Hurricane Alicia" on Tuesday as part of two-day drill aimed at avoiding the chaos that followed last year's deadly Hurricane Katrina.

The drill was organized to allow first responders and others, including Mayor Ray Nagin and Gov. Kathleen Blanco, to react as though a Category 3 hurricane was hitting the state's Gulf Coast.

State officials huddled over plans that included mock orders to activate 6,000 National Guard members and reverse traffic on major highways into New Orleans.

Blanco added a scenario in which a nuclear power plant caught fire, forcing the closure of U.S. Highway 61 as an evacuation route.

In New Orleans, buses took evacuees to the train station or to the convention center. From there, real evacuees would be taken to shelters in other parts of the state or region. Bar-coded wrist bands will help officials keep track of them.

"The more we practice the better we'll be when a storm hits," Marine Cpl. Jose Resendiz, 30, said as he and about a dozen other make-believe evacuees boarded a bus in New Orleans' Algiers neighborhood.

Last year, as Hurricane Katrina



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jose Resendiz participates in a security check-in a mock evacuation drill in New Orleans on Tuesday.

approached, thousands of the city's poor were left behind because they had no transportation, couldn't afford to leave or didn't know where to go. The Louisiana Superdome and the convention center became shelters of last resort where evacuees sweltered for days, suffering through shortages of food and water.

Nagin has emphasized that there will be no shelters in the city this

time.

At least two problems were reported during the drill. There were conflicting reports of where the buses would be. Also, a planned mock evacuation of the state's largest trailer site in Baker, a Baton Rouge suburb, did not occur because of what authorities called a communication breakdown.

Officials are concerned about the safety of travel trailer residents in

rough winds. There are more than 200,000 people statewide living in unfinished homes and mobile trailers. Hurricane Katrina hit the city Aug. 29 and killed more than 1,000 people.

Evacuating the metropolitan area would be somewhat easier this year since less than half the city's population of 455,000 has returned. And the hard-hit suburban parishes also have vast expanses of empty homes.

GOP speaker, Democratic leader, demand return of congressman's documents seized in FBI raid

Laurie Kellman
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — House leaders of both parties stood in rare election-year unanimity Wednesday demanding the FBI surrender documents it took and remove agents involved in the weekend raid of a congressman's office.

"The Justice Department must immediately return the papers it unconstitutionally seized," House Speaker Dennis Hastert and Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi said in a statement.

The leaders said that the congressman, William Jefferson, a Louisiana Democrat, should then cooperate with the investigation.

Earlier, Hastert had said any FBI agents involved "ought to be frozen out of that (case) just for the sake of the constitutional aspects of it."

Both parties have protested the Saturday night search of Jefferson's office on Capitol Hill, which they said violated the Constitution's separation of powers doctrine.

FBI agents searched Jefferson's office in pursuit of evidence in a bribery investigation. The search warrant, signed by U.S. District Court Judge Thomas Hogan, was based on an affidavit that said agents found \$90,000 in cash stashed in the freezer of Jefferson's home.

White House officials said they did not learn of the search until after it happened. They pledged to work with the Justice Department to soothe lawmakers.

Democrats, meanwhile, tried to get Jefferson to resign his seat on the House's most prestigious panel.

"In the interest of upholding the high ethical standard of the House Democratic Caucus, I am writing to request your immediate resignation from the Ways and Means Committee," wrote Pelosi.

Jefferson was defiant.

"With respect, I decline to do so," he wrote back to Pelosi. "I will not give up a committee assignment that is so vital to New Orleans at this crucial time for any uncertain, long-term political strategy."

Jefferson, meanwhile, filed a motion asking the judge to order the FBI to return all of the documents taken from his office during the 15-hour search.

Jefferson's motion said the search violated "speech and debate" protections in the Constitution to ensure the independence of lawmakers.

Presidential administrations and Congress have routinely subpoenaed information from each other, and often they have refused to give up the materials sought.

This is the first time the branch seeking the information dispatched its law enforcement arm to wrest materials from the office of a sitting congressman who is the target of a probe.

Most members of the leadership of both houses objected to the search because they said it violated the Constitution.

"The institution has a right to protect itself against the executive

department going into our offices and violating what is the (Constitution's) speech and debate clause, which essentially says, 'That's none of your business, executive department,'" said House Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer of Maryland.

Republicans were being careful to protest the raid without defending Jefferson.

Some House officials are predicting the case will bring all three branches together at the Supreme Court for a constitutional showdown. Historians say it was the first raid of a representative's quarters in

Congress' 219 years.

Attorney General Alberto Gonzales tried to strike a conciliatory tone, saying, "We have a great deal of respect for the Congress as a coequal branch of government." But he also defended the search: "We have an obligation to the American people to pursue the evidence where it exists."

Justice Department officials said the decision to search Jefferson's office was made in part because he refused to comply with a subpoena for documents last summer. Jefferson reported the subpoena to the House on Sept. 15, 2005.

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Malvo to D.C.-area sniper: 'You made me a monster'

Matthew Barakat
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ROCKVILLE, Md. — John Allen Muhammad aggressively questioned his former sniper protege Lee Boyd Malvo on Wednesday and kept referring to the young man testifying against him as "son."

"I'm not doing it intentionally," Muhammad said after being admonished by Malvo, the judge and prosecutors. "I apologize, Mr. Malvo."

Muhammad, who is representing himself, also questioned Malvo about his mental health, referring to his 2003 insanity plea in Virginia for one of the sniper killings.

"Who decided you was insane? ... How many doctors said you was insane?" Muhammad asked Malvo.

"They said I was indoctrinated," Malvo responded.

Muhammad's questions came a day after Malvo's testimony provided an insider's account of the October 2002 sniper shootings that left 10 people dead. Malvo called Muhammad a coward who "made me a monster."

Muhammad, 45, and Malvo, 21, already have been convicted in Virginia for a sniper murder there. Muhammad received a death sentence while Malvo was given a life term.

Prosecutors in Maryland have said they are pursuing a second trial in case the Virginia conviction is overturned on appeal and to seek justice in Montgomery County, where six of the 10 killings happened.

On Tuesday, Muhammad said he had told jurors at the trial's opening that "John Allen Muhammad and Lee Boyd Malvo are innocent and I'm going to prove it."

Malvo remained unmoved by Muhammad's statement. When Muhammad asked Malvo if he believed Muhammad would indeed



ASSOCIATED PRESS

This artist rendering shows Maryland State Attorney Katherine Winfree, center, showing convicted sniper Lee Boyd Malvo, seated left, and John Allen Muhammad, right, a chart of the victims of the 2002 Washington-area sniper shootings during a courtroom hearing on Tuesday at the Montgomery County Courthouse in Rockville, Md.

exonerate the pair, Malvo responded no.

Later, Malvo became agitated as Muhammad pressed him on a variety of details, as Muhammad has done to others throughout the trial. Asked repeatedly by Muhammad how often their Bushmaster rifle was stored in a duffel bag, Malvo finally blurted out: "The weapon's been in the bag plenty of times, Muhammad."

Muhammad questioned Malvo about inconsistent statements he has given about the shootings. Shortly after the two were arrested, Malvo took responsibility for all 13 sniper shootings.

On the witness stand Tuesday, Malvo said Muhammad fired 10 shots and Malvo three. Muhammad then quizzed Malvo on whether he had been improperly convicted in 2003 for one of the killings in which Malvo now says Muhammad pulled the trigger.

"No, I'm not innocent. I took

part in that shooting. I'm an accomplice," he said.

Malvo's daylong testimony included a number of startling admissions.

Malvo said Muhammad's initial plan called for six shootings a day for 30 days, to be followed by a second phase that would include bombings of school buses and children's hospitals.

He said Muhammad told him "we're going to go to the Washington, D.C., area and we're going to terrorize these people." Malvo said Washington was chosen because that was where Muhammad's ex-wife had taken the couple's children. The plan ultimately called for taking the children to Canada.

Malvo testified he became so despondent on hearing Muhammad's plans that he played Russian roulette while sobbing in a bathtub, pulling the trigger several times before breaking down.

Prosecution rests in Abu Ghraib dog handler trial

David Dishneau
ASSOCIATED PRESS

FORT MEADE, Md. — The prosecution rested Wednesday in the court-martial of an Army dog handler accused of abusing detainees at Iraq's Abu Ghraib prison, after witnesses described treatment of prisoners that differed markedly by day and night.

Sgt. Santos Cardona, 32, of Fullerton, Calif., is accused of making his tan Belgian shepherd bite one detainee and harass another for his own amusement and that of other nightshift workers, characterized by prosecutors as a small band of "corrupt cops."

Staff Sgt. Christopher Ward, who supervised guards during the day, described an orderly environment sharply at odds with the widely seen photographs taken during nighttime hours of naked detainees being piled into pyramids, barked at by dogs and subjected to other humiliating treatment.

Ward said Wednesday that he had seen dogs used during the day shift in the prison about a half dozen times during his six months at Abu Ghraib, and only to patrol the tiers or search for smuggled weapons.

In contrast, Ward's night-side counterpart, former Staff Sgt. Ivan L. Frederick II, testified Tuesday that Cardona and another Army dog handler were inside the prison with their canines three to five times a week. Frederick described incidents in which the dogs were used at the request of interrogators to bark at detainees.

He also said he had heard Cardona say he was having a contest with another dog handler, former Sgt. Michael Smith, to see how many detainees they could make

urinate on themselves.

Cardona is charged with assault, dereliction of duty, maltreatment of detainees, conspiracy to maltreat detainees and lying to investigators. He faces up to 16 1/2 years in prison if convicted of all nine counts.

The defense, which would begin presenting its case later Wednesday, was expected to include testimony from Maj. Gen. Geoffrey Miller, the highest-ranking officer called yet in the courts-martial stemming from the scandal.

Defense attorney Harvey J. Volzer has previously said he plans to call Miller, a former commander of the detention center at Guantanamo Bay who was later sent to Iraq, to testify about interrogation techniques.

A military investigation into FBI reports of prisoner abuse at Guantanamo recommended that Miller be reprimanded for failing to oversee the interrogation of a high-value detainee, which was found to have been abusive. But a top general rejected the recommendation. Miller, who took over detainee operations in Iraq in March 2004, recently requested early retirement.

Frederick, now a private, is serving an eight-year sentence for his role in the Abu Ghraib scandal. Smith, of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., was convicted at a court-martial in March of maltreatment, conspiracy, dereliction and an indecent act. He was sentenced to 179 days in prison.

Ten low-ranking soldiers have been convicted of abusing prisoners at Abu Ghraib, in many cases by forcing them to assume painful or sexually humiliating positions.

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Annual West Coast Kustom's Car Show rolls into Paso

Paso Robles will play host to more than 800 classic cars this Memorial Day weekend

Justin Fivella
MUSTANG DAILY

Slick back your hair, roll some Camel unfiltered up in your sleeve and get ready to step back in time to a bygone era of 25-cent gas, powerful muscle cars and sock-hops at the 25th annual West Coast Kustoms Car show in Paso Robles.

Hailed as one of the best car shows on the West Coast, this Memorial Day automotive celebration attracts thousands to downtown Paso Robles to see the hundreds of classic cars, vendors, live '50s music and the famous cruise night.

"We are again at full capacity with 800 cars from all over the country; five are coming all the way from Canada, some from Kansas, and one gentleman is driving his car all the way from New York," said West Coast Kustom's Co-President Penny Pichette. "We even have four well-known pin strippers coming all the way from Japan to see the show."

What started as a small gathering of about 50 cars on the north shore of Lake Nacimiento 25 years ago, later moved to Sherwood Park in Paso Robles and eventually to the Downtown City Park where it has been for the past 15 years, Pichette said.

"All types of people come here (Paso Robles) for the show. Some come with their cars, some come because



COURTESY PHOTO

Take a trip down memory lane and relive the fabulous '50s at the three-day 25th annual West Coast Kustom's Car Show.

they wish they had a car, and others come to remember back then (the '50s and '60s)," said Norma Moye, executive director for the Paso Robles Downtown Main Street Association.

For some, the Paso Robles show is used as a stage to debut projects they have been working on for years.

"I have been looking forward to

this weekend for two years now when I bought just the body and doors

frame and fabricated everything else on the car, this weekend is going to be sick," he said.

West Coast Kustoms and the Paso Robles Downtown Main Street Association pride themselves on holding a classic car show with deep-rooted in tradition that is different from all others.

"It's the town, the reputation and the fact the car show has been here so long that makes it so unique," Pichette said. It's also different because of its large size and the fact that it is free to the public, she said.

Further establishing the show's niche, Pichette explained that unlike most shows where the "hot-rodders" with money, who prefer chrome and paint, and the "rat-rodders," who prefer rust over polish, seem to get along.

"It's amazing because you have

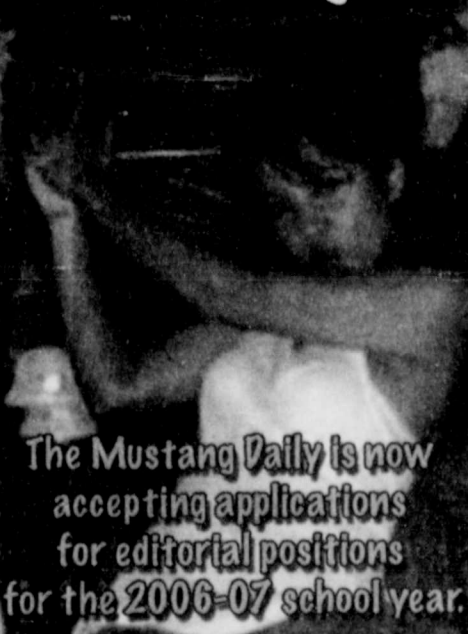
People line Spring Street
five deep to watch the
cars cruise the strip

—Penny Pichette
West Coast Kustom co-president

for my T (1927 Ford Model T)," car enthusiast Brandon Flanner said. "I started with just the body, made the

see Cars, page 8

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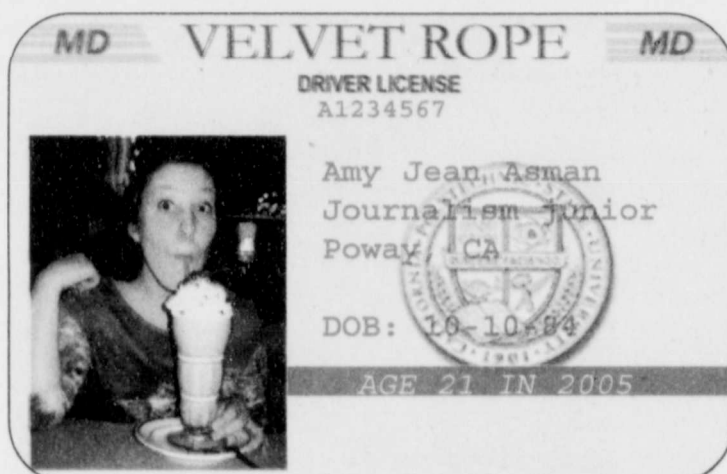
Memorial Day movies: big guns, big bucks

“Oooh, man didya zee da moovie about tat guuy withda boat ontop of that giiiiiint wave?! That wass AWWWSOME?”

This previous blurb of drunk-speak is actually an excessively intoxicated friend of mine asking whether or not I had seen the movie “Poseidon.” Or what I like to call: “Poseidon: The Ultimate Lame-o Memorial Day Box Office Sinker, Which Just Happens to Have a Shamefully Good Cast.”

The Hollywood tradition of bombarding Memorial Day weekend with over-hyped, mega thrillers — a time that is rightfully set aside to remember those who died to protect our fine capitalist country — is unfortunately not a new concept.

Sadly, the closest Hollywood ever got to actually honoring the military on Memorial Day was the summer Jerry Bruckheimer released “Pearl Harbor.” Now I love Josh Hartnett just as much as the next person, and Ben Affleck isn’t too bad either, but



this movie definitely did not exceed everyone’s high expectations.

With that in mind and since everyone is probably wondering when I’m going to work alcohol into this little vignette, I will cut right to the chase.

In order to survive the onslaught of ridiculously mediocre movies released in theaters this weekend, I propose that we all get drunk. Mind you, I am referring to all of us responsible 21-and-over-year-olds. Sorry youngin’s.

Here’s why: It was while listening to my friend slur on and on about the sheer cinematic glory of “Poseidon” that I realized alcohol makes everything seem better. Heck,

it could probably make “Gigli” look like an Oscar winner. Well, maybe not.

The point is studios continue making really awful holiday blockbusters because people continue paying to see them. So rather than suffer through a two-hour waste of your life, why not enjoy yourself with a little bit from the bottle?

I suggest drinking after the movie in order to avoid that nasty “drunken in public” citation. And if movie theaters won’t let you bring in hot beverages from Starbucks, they definitely aren’t going to let you in with a keg.

Of course, the most revolutionary idea would be to boycott the movies altogether and spend the day sticking it to the man at the beach or — God forbid — throwing a barbecue for all your friends and talking about what this country means to you.

But that’s the beauty of living in America — you get the freedom to decide. And that, my friends, is the true meaning of Memorial Day.



COURTESY PHOTO

Cars like this early-1950s Chevrolet will decorate Paso Robles’ streets this weekend.

Cars

continued from page 7

the low-buck owners and the high-buck owners standing shoulder to shoulder just being able to enjoy the cars,” Pichette said. “It’s something you don’t see that often.”

Kicking off the weekend will be the ever-popular cruise night that allows only the show cars to cruise along Spring Street in downtown Paso Robles, an event many believe to be the highlight of the weekend.

“People line Spring Street five

deep to watch the cars cruise the strip like they used to,” Pichette said. “People start putting out their chairs around noon so that they can get the best places to sit.”

Along with the car show and the cruise night, there will be live bands playing in the evenings, a hall of fame event featuring various industry legends and a poker run among many other events.

For more information regarding the weekend’s festivities, check out www.westcoastcruise.com or pasoroblesdowntown.org.

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Facebook, MySpace: rivals to suck in students

Jennifer Hall
MUSTANG DAILY

They are in the library, in the classroom and in your room. They suck up your free time and distract you from homework and students just can't get enough.

They are social networking Web sites such as MySpace and facebook.

These Web sites have become a worldwide phenomenon over the last couple of years as Internet-savvy adolescents have discovered the arena of personal profiles, blogs and "poking."

Today it seems that you are out of the loop if you don't have a facebook account or neglect to post a MySpace bulletin on a weekly basis.

These networking Web sites have become a part of daily life for college students, especially at Cal Poly.

Facebook has expanded to reach every school in the nation and has more than 12.4 million users, according to ComScore, an Internet tracking service, and there are 10,732 members that have listed Cal Poly as their school homepage on MySpace.

Facebook estimates that the average user spends 18 minutes per day on the site and that there are over 300 million page views in a 24-hour period.

When it comes to comparing the two Web sites, there are similarities and differences.

Both serve as areas for social networking, personalized profiles, photo databases and messaging. Facebook is more specified to college communities while MySpace can be used by anyone of any age.

"Facebook is not a place where a user meets a 'random' person, but

instead where individuals foster acquaintanceships or friendships that already exist," said Chris Hughes, spokesman for facebook.

According to the facebook "pulse" statistics 1,974 people "poke" each other and 3,042 photos are uploaded at Cal Poly in one day.

"Facebook, unlike MySpace, serves as an online directory of college students' information like phone numbers, screen names, birthdays and summer plans," Hughes said. "It also provides unique capabilities such as photo tagging and unlimited photo uploads and group organization."

Both Web sites allow for the creation of events and groups that are specified by the user, but MySpace also includes a classifieds section, music features and forums where users can meet others and discuss



COURTESY PHOTOS

different topics.

MySpace recently added a comedy section, similar to the music and filmmaker sections, according to the May member newsletter.

"This new section will highlight young, up-and-coming comedians and give MySpace members tips about tours and shows," said Tom, the MySpace persona created to answer user questions.

Facebook has recently added phone messaging capabilities, status updates and a profile space for work information.

With the growing number of capabilities and options for networking as well as the daily increase in membership, these Web sites will continue to expand at the rapid rates seen over the last few years.

Facebook
has more than
12.4 million
users and there
are **10,732**
MySpace
members who
list **Cal Poly**
as their school.

COMMENTARY

Smitten with MySpace

Christina Casci
MUSTANG DAILY

With the new rise in Web sites such as MySpace and facebook, many people are finding ways to hate it. However, I love the new technology for many reasons.

Every profile looks completely different from the next. Some people have random quizzes they think everyone else should take or hundreds of excessive pictures that nobody will ever look at.

The normal population would find this quite bothersome; however, I think it's wonderful. People get to share a little piece of themselves with the entire world. On MySpace in particular, not just friends get to see it, but every person who is a member of the site can view all you put up.

Not only is the amount of substance innumerable, but it is all different. You can put a unique touch on your site to make it special. If everyone's page were the same, it wouldn't be nearly as interesting.

Another great thing about the sites is that friends from high school are easy to reach. Most likely, people are checking their sites daily for new messages or comments, so whenever you want to speak with them without spending the extra time on the phone, you can just write something to them. They will probably respond back within the next few hours, unless they are trying to hide how often they check it.

Facebook is nice because it is only for students. Even though there have been a few extra creepy people who have lied to get on the site, there is a safer feeling than on MySpace. There is a lot less freedom and lacks old stalkers who bother young, innocent girls and boys.

Entertainment is what we all want and that is what MySpace and face-

book provide — lots of it. Some people can spend up to three or four hours on it, while others can waste a good half of their day. It is fun to see what new pictures were put up and what people wrote on each other's walls. Stalking an old high school crush is common in many girls' lives — just ask one. However, many will never admit it.

There is so much privacy about what you do, it feels OK to spend large amounts of time looking at one person's profile. Nobody will ever know exactly how much time was spent or even where you went on the sites.

MySpace allows people of all ages to become members. This includes middle school and high school students. It gives them a great chance to feel cool. Who doesn't want to get e-mail constantly telling you who did something to your page?

Seriously, it's nice to see 15 e-mails next to the new mail part of your

homepage. How cool does that make you feel? Even though it is a bit of a letdown when you notice over half are facebook telling you Pete has written on your wall. This

is especially odd when you don't even know a Pete.

The No. 1 reason I love MySpace and facebook is definitely for the fact that I never have to remember a birthday again. Every day it tells you whose birthday is coming up. This is especially helpful when it's someone who would probably cry if you didn't remember his or her special day.

Not only is it wonderful for remembering birthdays but it is even better on your own birthday. Due to the fact that there are reminders about who has a birthday, everyone who feels compelled will write something on your wall wishing you a happy and wonderful day. It's a great way to make the fact that your parents forgot what day it was float to the back of your head.



GRAPHIC ILLUSTRATION BY LOUISE DOLBY MUSTANG DAILY

COMMENTARY

Festered by 'poke' wars

Ronnie Meehan
MUSTANG DAILY

You log onto the Web site with your expectations running high. Perhaps someone you have never met would like to add you as a "friend," or even better, maybe someone left you a comment about your new picture. And wouldn't it be fabulous if you got yet another post on your wall of fame?

Those things are priceless.

Let's admit it folks, social networking sites like MySpace and

facebook are a waste of time, especially for students. Yes, you could be typing that paper due tomorrow, but instead you are hell-bent on collecting more friends. Being the loser with a friend count of only 30 is out of the question.

These social networking Web sites — Myspace.com in particular — are brewing trouble. You may recall the group of

Texas high school students who were planning a "Columbine-like" attack on their school over MySpace.com. Luckily, a parent of a student saw the malicious plot and notified the authorities before the deadly plan could unfold.

According to company officials, MySpace now has over 65 million users on its site, which is more than double the 32 million users that were reported in October. Its popularity has made it a target of groups like the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children who claim that social networking sites like MySpace are a haven for sex offenders and child predators. The Center for Missing and Exploited Children reported more

than 2,600 incidents last year of adults using the Internet to entice children.

Anyone who has visited a social networking site knows how easy it is to view personal information on a user they do not even know. Everything from age, relationship status, sexual orientation and the religious views of a person are readily available to see. But it does not mean that it's true. You could be adding a "cool" new friend who made up her entire site because she is looking for friends just as desperately as you.

These sites are also notorious for "hook-ups," yet ironically do not come with a profile option to list what sexually transmitted diseases one might be carrying. Word to the wise: Pictures can be cropped and edited to make an unattractive person look hot. What ever happened to meeting someone in person?

Facebook allows students to connect with one another

via the school they attend. Users are able to list the classes they are enrolled in and then find classmates also on the site. One would think that facebook would be used for academic purposes, but more often than not, people are just as busy putting up pictures and posting worthless comments as they are on MySpace. This gets back to the point that social networking is the new hobby of the information super-highway, a hobby that is as worthless as collecting Barbies.

Do yourself a favor and close your browser. It's late and everyone else is probably asleep. Those who are logged in are probably as far behind on their homework as you are.

Word to the wise: Pictures can be cropped and edited to make an unattractive person look hot. What ever happened to meeting someone in person?

Graphic Arts Building, Suite 226
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(805) 756-1796 editorial
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Thursday, May 25, 2006

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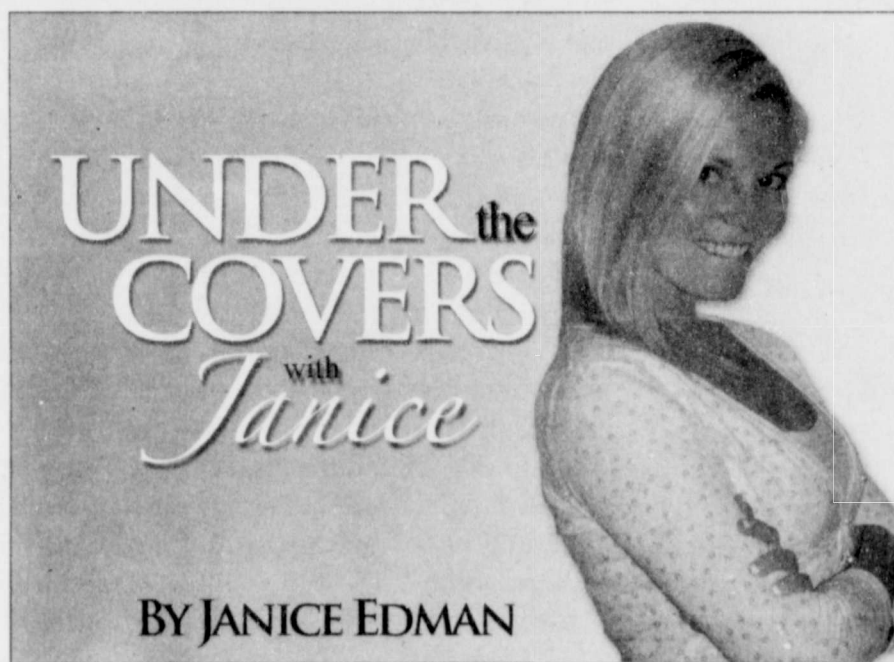
SEX COLUMN

Summer lovin' happens so SLO

When I was 15, I bought the single for "Baby One More Time" by Britney Spears ... and it's taken me seven years to admit it. Her B-side song was entitled "Autumn Goodbye," a deeply profound ballad about the pains of summer love. It contained the sage lyrics, "Summer love will keep us warm long after our autumn goodbye." OK, so she's no expert on love, obvious in the fact that she's still changing K Fed's diapers, but Britney (or her songwriters) did understand the perils of summer love. And with that glorious season upon us, summer love deserves a good bit of attention to ensure that your autumn goodbyes are at least well anticipated.

Whether summer is spent in San Luis Obispo or the retreat is made back to the hometown, where you are treated as an unsung hero for being a — gasp! — college student, the hot season is the ideal time for a fun fling.

To begin with, the three months of summer are surrounded by a haze of evanescence. All parties are fully aware that with September comes school responsibilities (we all know summer school is a walk in the park) and the instant excuse to embrace singledom again. I've done the summer love thing, pretty much every summer I went home and another guy from high school suddenly looked hotter for the months spent in Vermont at some tiny college where the girls don't put out. Sure here are risks



— after getting in too deep, you could be sorely reminded of his annoying habit of laughing at his own lame jokes or puking in your parents' pool (this is all hypothetical, of

course). But the beauty of summer love is that you can blow him off after some mutual pleasure and never feel guilty about it.

In a recent conversation with a friend about serious relationships, she decreed that at this age, the shrewd lover should only enter relationships that have a hope of a future, or else there's little

or no point in entwining lives and putting feelings on the line. This is true — she's wise beyond her years. But summer is the ideal time to remember that we are still young and, let's face it, still able to get down with a completely unrealistic paramour and blame it on young lust.

That option is stripped away in the same moment you are handed a diploma, along with the ability to sponge off your parents and recklessly abandon class (I'm feeling somewhat apprehensive about entering the real world, in case that wasn't blatantly obvious).

Summer is pure fun, by definition. Internships and summer courses aside, the days are marked by a wonderful feeling of carelessness, mostly because as soon as the last final is done it's hard to convince any college student that there is a future beyond the waiting keg at your friend's barbecue. So it's fine to let this feeling of carelessness make its way into any summer-borne relationship, unless of course you actually still like your fling by the haze of late August. In that case, special care must be made in making the adjustment back to your lives at school, which is no small feat in itself.

Whether the summer love lasts or fades faster than your tan in the rainy season, the warmth left over from the fun should still be cherished as a good memory. Yeah, yeah, we're getting older and should be more serious about all matters, including love. But have some fun first, and never look back.

Janice Edman is an English senior and Mustang Daily columnist.

Summer is the ideal time to remember that we are still young and, let's face it, still able to get down with a completely unrealistic paramour and blame it on young lust.

COLUMNIST LINEUP...

Monday - The Bottom Line

Tackling everyday ethical issues in the business world

by Aliza Elbert and Jenette Ballas

Tuesday - Political columnists

- Talk Back with Jack (Liberal view)
- The Right Way (Conservative view)

by Jack Ingram and Brian Eller

Wednesday - Poly Point-blank

The ASI president writes about the issues he finds important to the student body.

by Tylor Middlestadt

Thursday - Sex columns

- Daniel Sexplains it All (Male view)
- Under the Covers with Janice (Female view)

by Daniel Gingras and Janice Edman

Friday - Two Classy Gents

They've taken on President Baker, Scientology, love-making and Chuck Liddell. What will our humor columnists take on next?

by Mike Matzke and Doug Bruzone

ONLINE EXCLUSIVE LINEUP... Online Exclusive

Tuesday

the
WORD
on the
SCREEN



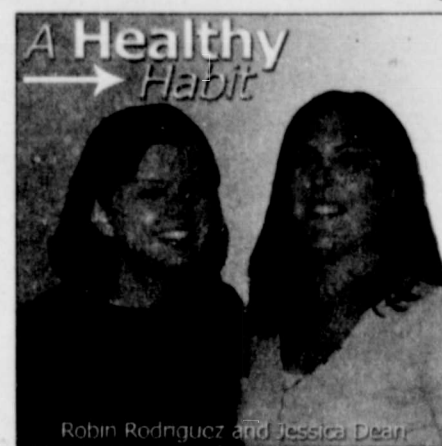
an online column exclusive

Wednesday



By Julianne Byer

Thursday



Robin Rodriguez and Jessica Dean



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LETTERS
TO THE EDITOR**'Justice for All' a good display of free speech**

I applaud the "Justice for All" displays at the University Union and on Dexter Lawn. I am pro-choice, and "Justice for All" won't change that, but they are pursuing their cause in the right manner. By humanizing embryonic life, they may have changed some minds — the photos were graphic and the message was clear. As I toured the display on Dexter Lawn, a staff member approached me and asked what I was thinking (I was thinking "Oh shit!") — I was neither in the mood, nor did I have the energy for an argument, and I especially didn't want to be drawn into a debate on abortion in front of such a grave demonstration). To my surprise, even after learning my stance on the issue, this woman didn't condemn me, berate me, or try to proselytize me; she simply listened to what I had to say, then offered her opinion. Such an outward display of free speech is welcome, especially on a campus where the administrative tolerance of controversial speech is not exactly stellar. Props.

Joey Reggio*Ecology and systematic biology senior***Mothers are not baby factories, give them rights**

There has been a lot of discussion on Dexter Lawn and in the University Union the last several days. Some of it good, some of it bad, and some of it clearly not well thought out. Today, I heard something shocking. A member of the organization with the anti-abortion display asked a girl when she thought life begins based on a series of circles with various stages of fetal development. After a moment of pondering, the girl responded that she thought that it did not matter to the discussion. When pressed further, she followed up with the idea that whether any of us are classified as "human" also did not matter, only the health of the mother.

If one follows that train of

thought, society could compel the mother to be nothing more than a baby factory since her human rights don't matter either. But why stop there? We could revolutionize the world with this type of thinking. Darfur? Why, Darfur isn't genocide, it is housecleaning by the Sudanese government. And slavery? Slavery is, to quote some of our commentators, such an "uncouth" term for the practice. We should rather call it an economically beneficial utilization of Homo sapiens labor.

But clearly this is a ridiculous line of reasoning. What is not ridiculous is that once a society starts eliminating morality from its laws and practices, it opens the Pandora's box of any action becoming equivalent to any other action. America treads a fine line because of our multicultural heritage with different moral values, but the right to live and respect for all humanity, from the elderly to the unborn, should be something cherished lest we lose everything good for which America stands.

Ryan Hunter*Mechanical engineering senior***Palestinians can't bomb their way to peace, but others can**

When I opened the paper last Tuesday I couldn't believe my eyes: The headline to Brian Eller's column read "You can't bomb your way to peace." I nearly had a heart attack. Was the conservative columnist advocating non-violence? Had he retracted his support for the war in Iraq? Had he finally renounced violence because he realized it only perpetuates itself? Had he finally become a true Christian and learned to turn the other cheek?

Unfortunately, this is not so. What Mr. Eller actually meant was Palestinians can't bomb their way to peace (apparently American and Israeli bombs don't spread death and destruction, only rainbows and lollipops). According to Mr. Eller, "Israeli troops refrain from deliberately killing Palestinian civilians and instead ... have selected air strikes of specific targets, which often put Israeli soldiers at great risk." I can assure you, the women and children who live in the targeted homes and nearby houses are put in far graver risk than Israeli sol-



JAMES GLEN MUSTANG DAILY

diers dropping the bombs. And while Israeli soldiers may not directly target civilians, how else do you explain the deaths of more than 600 Palestinian children at the hands of the Israeli army since the year 2000 (www.btselem.org)?

A recent speaker on campus discussed "liberal hypocrisy." Maybe you should examine your own hypocrisy Mr. Eller. Why is Israeli and American terrorism OK but not Palestinian? Why is it OK for Palestine to be replaced by a Jewish theocracy but not for Israel to be replaced by an Islamic theocracy? And why is it okay for the U.S. and our allies to possess nuclear weapons but no one else? Unlike you Mr. Eller, I do not support violence, theocracy, or nuclear weapons whether they are Palestinian, Israeli or American. Unlike you Mr. Eller, I believe laws should apply to everyone equally.

And please stop trying to dismiss others by labeling them radical liberals. The Green Party is "liberal" on some issues such as

social justice, "conservative" on others such as small, decentralized government, and defies the liberal/conservative spectrum on many issues such as nationalized healthcare (which a majority of Americans support, but is part of neither major party's platform).

David Kirk*Social science junior***MSA speakers only divide Muslim, Jewish communities**

Dear Mr. Chowdhry, I must disagree with your most recent claim that "Zionists will support Israel no matter how brutal their occupation is." Many Zionists like myself are very critical of many of Israel's policies, but choose not to express their concerns when confronted with your outrageous statements comparing us to Nazis and claiming that we control the media.

As for the speaker MSA sponsored on the last day of Palestine Awareness Week, Amir Malik Ali, I feel he most likely expressed Muslim and Palestinian grievances against America and Israel very well.

However, his fiery rhetoric

unjustly aggravated and worried the Jewish community here. Those kinds of speakers, and the ones brought in by Dr. Farooq, instill a profound sense of hostility between Jews and Muslims on this campus when there was never any before. Instead of taking the opportunity to learn about each other's views, those kinds of events put everyone into an us versus them mentality. I also believe the speaker actually hurt the Palestinian cause by alienating Americans not involved in the conflict because of his extreme views.

In the few remaining weeks on campus, I urge you Mr. Chowdhry, and everyone else on campus, to avoid malicious name callings and demonizations in relation to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Remember, at the end of the day, the Palestinians and Israelis are not going anywhere so we might as well start learning how to live with each other so we can start fixing our own problems.

Zachary R. Goldstein*Mechanical engineering sophomore*

GUEST COMMENTARY

Don't be a victim: know the date rape drug facts now

You wake up after a hard night of partying at your favorite bar or a friend's party. You remember drinking a lot, but the rest of the night is pretty much a blur. You feel hung over, but it is a lot worse than you have ever felt before.

Was it just one too many shots or could it have been something else?

It could be that you were slipped a date-rape drug by someone hoping to, or someone who did, take advantage of your weakened state.

According to the Sexual Assault Recovery and Prevention Center (SARP), there are strong indications that drugs such as Rohypnol, GHB and Ketamine are present in the county. The SARP Center has received calls from men and women saying they have been dosed at local bars, clubs and parties.

Although extremely underreport-

ed, drug-facilitated rapes are prevalent and a very real threat to college-aged women. It is important to point out that if someone is drugged or sexually assaulted, it is not their fault. However, there are a number of things you can do to protect yourself and your friends.

The first step in prevention is education. Drug-facilitated sexual assaults occur when predators use drugs to compromise their victims' ability to refuse sexual interactions and to minimize their victims' memory of the attack. These types of sexual assaults are difficult to document because victims may not be aware they ingested a drug at all.

Date-rape drugs cause victims to become physically helpless, unable to refuse sex or consent to it and unable to remember what happened. The drugs are hard to detect in drinks because they have no

color, taste or smell and can easily be added without the victim's knowledge.

According to the SARP Center, Rohypnol and GHB are the most commonly-used drugs in the area.

Rohypnol is a small white tablet that dissolves quickly in liquid. The drug takes effect within 30 minutes of ingestion and can last for more than eight hours. Rohypnol can cause memory impairment, muscle relaxation, drowsiness, visual disturbances, dizziness, confusion, loss of consciousness and nausea.

GHB comes in liquid, powder and tablet form. It is the only one of the three drugs that can be made at home, so the effects are often unpredictable. The drug takes effect within 15 minutes of ingestion and can last three to four hours. GHB sedates the body and slows breathing and heart rate. It can lead to intense

drowsiness, hampered mobility, verbal incoherence, nausea, headache and loss of consciousness.

A third drug that is rising in popularity is Ketamine. Also known as Special K, the drug comes in a liquid or white powder. Dosed individuals feel detached from their bodies and surroundings so that while they may be aware of what is happening, they are unable to resist. The drug can also cause dizziness, confusion, hallucinations, agitation, disorientation, impaired motor skills and loss of consciousness.

These facts are very frightening, but there is something you can do. Prevention is easy, just follow these tips:

- Watch your drink and others' drinks.
- Do not leave your drink unattended.

- Do not accept a drink you did not see poured.

- Always carry your drink yourself.
- Do not drink out of a punch-bowl or container being passed around.

- Do not drink anything that has an unusual taste.

- Never leave your friends behind at a bar or party.

Many individuals do not realize they have been drugged because the symptoms mirror those of intoxication. If you are drugged or think you have been drugged, get to a safe place and call 911, the SARP Center at 545-8888 or the National Sexual Assault Hotline at 1-800-656-HOPE.

Nicole Stivers is a journalism senior and Becca Swanson is a psychology senior, both are Mustang Daily guest columnists.

UC-Davis professor explores tanning for the times

Simon Efrein

THE CALIFORNIA AGGIE (UC-DAVIS)

DAVIS — Suntan. In modern society, the word brings to mind bronzed bodies with exotic allure. Lying out in the sun is oftentimes forgone for tanning beds in order to get the look more quickly and effectively.

However, being tan has not always had the sexy connotation it has now. Historically, being tan was considered a negative attribute in many societies — associated with being a commoner.

In ancient Rome, women would deliberately lighten their skin with lead-based cosmetics.

The Greeks would use olive oil as a sunscreen. It wasn't particularly effective, but it does suggest that they were conscientious of sun exposure.

During the Middle Ages, including the time of the Renaissance, to be tan was to be considered of low class. Peasants who were out under the sun all day were not people of wealth.

Throughout the 18th and 19th centuries, women were considered more attractive if they had a fair complexion with no freckles or blemishes of any kind. The white, powdered faces of European lords are clear examples of what was idolized.

According to Sally McKee, a UC-Davis professor of medieval history, pale skin was a status symbol.

"Pale skin was always a mark of privilege. Light-complexioned men and women were considered more beautiful by the European standard."

In many societies, tanned skin was associated with manual labor. One would only be tan if he or she had to work on a farm for a moneyed individual.

"Skin burnt by the sun belonged to peasants and servants who worked outdoors," Sally said.

While it is not clear exactly when and how this trend was reversed, it was not until roughly the 1920s, when famous fashion designer Coco Chanel acquired a tan on a trip to the French Riviera, that being tan became stylish.

By the 1960s, having a deep bronze tan became a symbol of beauty and good health. As a result, rates of skin cancer diagnosis have increased tremendously.

In the 1980s, the American Academy of Dermatology launched a campaign warning about the risk of too much sun exposure.

Today, tans remain popular despite the known risks of skin cancer from sun exposure.

Threads

continued from page 1

synonymous with laundry here in San Luis Obispo.

Bianchi and Miller had previously worked together on school projects and had discussed the idea of opening a business in San Luis Obispo when Miller suggested the idea of a laundry service, Bianchi said.

For just \$7.80 per load, Fresh Threads will pick up a student's laundry, wash it, fold it, bundle it and then bring it back to their house. Delivery and pickup are included in the price. Bianchi said that one load is about the equivalent of three pairs of pants, 10 shirts, seven pairs of underwear and seven pairs of socks. Females' clothes are usually smaller and more can fit into a single load.

Penny-pinchers can pay half-price on "Freeball Fridays," named after what guys do when they run out of clean laundry. With that deal, it's less than \$8 for about two weeks of laundry and, as Bianchi said, "you never have to leave your couch."

"It just makes sense," Miller said. "It's a business that hasn't ever been done on the Central Coast ... It's just done in major metropolitan areas like Long Beach and downtown L.A. for businesspeople. But it's never really been offered cost-effectively to students."

"Once people use this business once — and we're beginning to find that this is true — they're not going to stop," Bianchi said. "We're cheaper than a laundromat, and we're right down to the pennies of doing it yourself at home, with old appliances. There are no worries. We'll come out to your job, we'll come to your class, and we'll come to your dorm room and just take care of it there."

Although Miller and Bianchi's target customers are college students, they also feel that their ser-

vices would be incredibly useful to families and for those who don't have time to wait for their laundry to finish.

"That's the image we want to put off to the people using our service," Bianchi added. "We're your laundry servants. We're not targeting wealthy people. We're not targeting CEO's. We're targeting the everyday person who goes to school or goes to work. That's why our prices are so low. We're not looking to cash in on rich people or anything like that; we're just looking to service the working people from right here in San Luis Obispo."

"We know we're going to make everyone happy," Miller added. "There's some people's laundry that we've found stains on that they hadn't even noticed. We don't even say anything, we just spot treat it, and try to put in the extra effort to make sure everyone's satisfied."

In addition to offering a useful service to the community, Miller and Bianchi's story serves as encouragement for any student that hopes to open their own business after graduation. Neither had any prior experience with opening a business, and were forced to learn things as they went along.

"I'm not going to lie, it's like rolling the dice," Bianchi said. "As fun as this is, and as much as we think the potential is there for us to serve the community, it's how the community reacts to what we offer."

For this reason, Miller and Bianchi said they know they must handle every customer's laundry with care.

"As small as this town is, and as fast as you can make a good name for yourself, you can make a bad one just as fast," Bianchi said.

Although many people have been willing to help them along the way, they were worried that their young age would rob them of the respect they deserved.

"We had to try and stay ahead of the game, because we're young and people aren't going to respect us as much as they would an older person," Bianchi said. "But I would say that the whole thing is way more positive than I thought it was going to be. Lots of people have been really helpful."

Although the two agree that opening their own business has been extremely rewarding, they are currently running the business completely by themselves, and have been forced to put in 10-hour days at Fresh Threads. In addition, they have been putting in part-time hours at their old jobs in order to make rent. Miller and Bianchi are planning to hire a few more employees as the business increases. Their ultimate goal is to one day quit their old jobs and focus on this new business. However, the financial struggles that accompany being a young businessman are putting that idea on hold.

"When I'm in here, I'm stoked," Miller said. "I'm like, 'Yeah, that's right, this is a product of our work.' But at the same time, when I go home, I'm thinking 'I hope the cell phone bill didn't come today.'"

"It's not comfortable. By all means, it's not," Bianchi said. "You don't have a paycheck, you know? I don't know how much money I'm going to make this week, or if I'm even going to make any. The whole idea of it is: You put in that time and you put in that sacrifice. I'm working twice as hard as I was when I was just working a normal construction job, and I'm making no money. It's like, this is why I do this, this is why I work so hard. And it really is worth it in the long run, but the majority of the time, you're sitting there sweating."

Fresh Threads is located at 973 Foothill Blvd. and is open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. every day. To take advantage of their free pickup service, give them a call at (805) 541-1848.

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Grades not most important factor for employers

Saba Berhie

DAILY NORTHWESTERN (NORTHWESTERN U.)

EVANSTON, Ill. — Stressing over that 4.0 may not be as worthwhile as many students expect.

According to a study released this month by Collegegrad.com, a leading entry-level job resource site, grade point average is not the most important factor in the job hunt.

The survey asked employers to pick the criteria from a list of eight that they find most important in college graduates. Only 6 percent of employers surveyed found GPA to be the most important.

But a student's major was ranked most valuable by 37 percent of employers. The job interview and internships or experience were also ranked highly. And only 3 percent of employers reported that they considered where a student's degree came from most important.

The diminished focus on where a student is educated was unexpected for Northwestern University sophomore Angela Munoz.

"Everyone always said that since you go to Northwestern, you're guaranteed a good job," she said.

Munoz said she was pleased the survey revealed employers' emphasis on the person, through the focus on

interviews. This even the playing field for students who did not go to a brand-name school.

Dianne Siekmann, associate director for employer relations at University Career Services, said she was surprised by the survey.

"We've spent a lot of time moving employers' (focuses) off majors," she said.

Siekmann said most employers realize a "broad spectrum of students" exists and aim for the well-rounded student, although they realize that specialty majors such as engineering and the sciences are unique cases.

The example of an "art history (student) taking banking" is the ideal for employers today, Siekmann said.

She also said that although employers in general may focus less on GPA, those in specific fields, such as consulting and banking, consider grades a crucial factor in the hiring process.

Weinberg junior Jonathan Moore said the diminished importance of GPA made sense.

"This shows that people don't necessarily equate job skills with academics," he said.

However, he disagreed with the emphasis on majors and said that

experience should count for more.

"Can you think like a real person?" should be an employer's first concern, Moore said. This concern could be alleviated with more real-life experience, he said.

To help students with the interview portion of the job search, UCS holds interview clinics and mock-interview practices.

Siekmann said it is obvious when prospective employees have not prepared for their interview, such as when students do not know basic facts about the company for which they are interviewing. Practice makes a noticeable difference, she said.

Siekmann said she did not take the results of the survey too seriously after seeing the emphasis the survey placed on students' majors.

But McCormick senior Theng Khuan Low agreed with that emphasis. Low said the specialized skill sets necessary to work today, especially in an increasingly high-tech world, require a certain degree.

Low, an industrial engineering and economics double major, will be starting work for a consulting firm after graduation. He said his major is an asset to his future job and will prepare him for a consulting career.

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International briefs

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — Fighting in rugged southern Afghan mountains killed at least 24 militants and five Afghan forces, while the U.S. military acknowledged Wednesday that the Taliban have grown in "strength and influence" in recent weeks. The violence came after a week of some of the deadliest violence since the Taliban regime's ouster in 2001. As many as 336 people have died, mostly militants, according to Afghan and coalition figures.

— The Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki said Wednesday he believed Iraqi forces were capable of taking over security around the country within 18 months, but he did not mention a timetable for U.S.-led coalition forces to leave. In Washington, the White House said before a meeting between President Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair that it was premature to talk about troop withdrawals.

— The Associated Press

CAIRO, Egypt — Osama bin Laden's latest audiotape is both an attempt to trash the U.S. justice system and recapture his "thunder" as the world's No. 1 terrorist, experts said Wednesday.

The five-minute tape posted on the Internet on Tuesday is indicative of al-Qaida's revamped propaganda machine, which is issuing an increasing number of messages from top leaders and showing a quicker reaction time to world events. It was bin Laden's third tape this year.

Bin Laden spent much of the tape trying to exonerate Zacarias Moussaoui of involvement in the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on the United States. The tape emerged three weeks after a federal court in Virginia sentenced Moussaoui to life imprisonment for the attacks.

— The Associated Press

GENEVA — An Indonesian family infected with bird flu may have passed the disease among themselves rather than individually catching it from poultry, but the World Health Organization is leaving its pandemic alert level unchanged, the agency said Wednesday.

Six of seven people in the extended family in northern Sumatra who caught the disease have died, the most recent on Monday.

— The Associated Press

Huge fire damages cargo building at Istanbul airport, forcing 2,000 workers to evacuate

Benjamin Harvey
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ISTANBUL, Turkey — A quick-spreading fire burned down most of the cargo section of Istanbul's Ataturk International Airport on Wednesday, forcing 2,000 workers to flee the thick black smoke that closed one runway to traffic and disrupted flights.

The inferno collapsed a large part of the cargo building, likely causing millions of dollars in damage. Three people were treated for smoke inhalation, authorities said.

"Our biggest consolation is there is no loss of life," said Mujdat Yucel, manager of the Havas cargo and ground services company.

Firefighting planes filled with water from the nearby Marmara Sea made more than 70 sorties to douse the flames, flying low and at an angle to avoid a nearby Turkish Airlines building. Dozens of fire trucks also responded, and the blaze was brought under control after more than four hours.

Authorities ruled out terrorism or sabotage and gave various possible causes for the fire, including a spark from a welder's torch or a short-circuit.

"It was definitely not sabotage," said Deputy Gov. Fikret Kasapoglu. "But there are various kinds of materials in there, flammable, explosive, so we have to be careful."

However, a hard-line Kurdish group, the Kurdistan Freedom Falcons



A large cloud of black smoke covers Istanbul's Ataturk International Airport, Turkey, Wednesday, May 24, 2006. A huge fire engulfed the cargo section of the airport and temporarily halted air traffic.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Organization, claimed responsibility for the fire, the Netherlands-based Firat News Agency reported. The Freedom Falcons are linked to the Kurdistan Workers Party, the main Kurdish guerrilla group.

There was no immediate government comment on the claim.

As authorities struggled to move parked cargo planes away from the burning building, thousands of passengers anxiously watched thick smoke rise from behind the large windows of the ultramodern terminal building, the main hub for domestic and international flights and which

hosts millions of tourists each year.

The fire closed down one runway, causing delays of up to a few hours, but authorities said there was no security risk for flights and encouraged passengers to fly. Turkish Airlines planes could be seen landing even as the fire raged.

The fire, which began in a section where fuel depots were located, surrounded the building within minutes as workers fled in a panic.

"A huge black cloud came, it smelled like cables burning, the roof started burning," cargo worker Omer Toplar said.

Toplar and hundreds of his co-workers watched from about 100 yards away and feared that the blaze could cost them their jobs.

Workers said the entire structure was in flames within five minutes.

"There was panic, no one thought the fire would get so big," said Sebahattin Yildiz, who said he owned cargo that was lost in the fire.

The fire destroyed much of the cargo stored in the building, including textile products and gold shipments, officials said. They said they would need more time to estimate the damage, but that it would be considerable.

Former Saddam deputy insists the wrong people are on trial

Sinan Salaheddin
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD, Iraq — A pajama-clad Tariq Aziz, once the most prominent public face of Saddam Hussein's regime, defended his former boss in court Wednesday and said Iraq's current Shiite leaders should be on trial for attempts to kill him and Saddam in the 1980s.

The 70-year-old Aziz, a former foreign minister and deputy prime minister, appeared thin and pale in his checkered pajamas and wore what looked like a hospital bracelet on his right wrist. His family has said he suffers from heart trouble.

Aziz, appearing in public for the first time since turning himself in to the Americans during the 2003 U.S. led-invasion, is the best-known Saddam-era figure to take the stand in the seven-month-old trial.

Aziz insisted Saddam had no choice but to crack down in the Shiite town of Dujail after a July 8,

1982, shooting attack on his motorcade there, blamed on the Shiite Dawa Party backed by Iran.

"It was an assassination attempt against the president, and this party also tried to assassinate me in 1980," Aziz said. "If the head of state comes

under attack, the state is required by law to take action. If the suspects are caught with weapons, it's only natural they should be arrested and put on trial."

Hundreds of men, women and children were arrested by security

forces after the assassination attempt. Some prisoners allegedly were tortured to death and 148 Shiites were ordered sent to the gallows by Saddam's Revolutionary Court for alleged roles in the attempt.

see Trial, page 14



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Cuts

Trial

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Saddam and his seven co-defendants could be hanged if convicted of crimes against humanity for their involvement in the crackdown.

The defense has been making its case for the past two weeks. A series of defense witnesses took the stand Wednesday — including former Saddam bodyguards — and testified that the Dujail shooting was a serious attack on the then-president.

One bodyguard, Abed Abdel-Hameed Mahmoud al-Tikriti, said a woman put a bloody handprint on Saddam's car to mark it for attack, so Saddam was put into a different car.

Aziz insisted Saddam did not bring up Dujail during later government meetings and never ordered co-defendants Barzan Ibrahim, the former Mukhabarat intelligence chief, or Taha Yassin Ramadan, a former Revolutionary Command Council member, to carry out the wave of arrests in Dujail.

Though his voice was hoarse, Aziz spoke firmly and gave a lively denunciation of the Dawa Party, to which the head of Iraq's current government, Nouri al-Maliki, and his predecessor, Ibrahim al-Jaafari, belong.

He said Dawa Party activists threw a hand grenade at him during an April 1980 visit to Baghdad's Mustansiriyah University, an attack he claimed killed dozens of students.

When Chief Judge Raouf Abdel-Rahman told him to stick to the Dujail case, he protested that the Dujail shooting was "part of a series of attacks and assassination attempts



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Former Iraqi President, Saddam Hussein, gestures during his trial held in Baghdad's heavily fortified Green Zone, on Wednesday in Baghdad, Iraq.

by this group."

"I'm a victim of a criminal act conducted by this party, which is in power right now. So put it on trial. Its leader was the prime minister and his deputy is the prime minister right now, and they killed innocent Iraqis in 1980," he said.

The defendants and other witnesses in U.S. custody have been able to wear what they choose and have sometimes used their clothes to make a statement. In February, Ibrahim wore only long underwear and a long-sleeve undershirt to show his contempt for the court.

Aziz, known during his time in office for his designer suits, wore pajamas and looked pale and weak — though his dress may have been chosen to emphasize his poor health and help his case for release.

Aziz's lawyers and family say he has

heart problems and have been pressing for the U.S. military to free him or allow him to get treatment abroad, though American officials have insisted he gets adequate care in prison.

Saddam stood during the session and defended Ibrahim and Yassin, saying he did not order them to investigate the Dujail attack.

"This issue took its normal path. The security service is in charge of Iraqis inside Iraq while Mukhabarat was in charge of foreigners inside Iraq and Iraqis outside Iraq," Saddam said. "I didn't order either Taha or Barzan in the Dujail issue.

"Why accuse Taha and Barzan in such a wrong way? But you see the director of General Security or you ask the interior minister... that's a natural thing. But to accuse someone who doesn't have anything to do with it is not normal."

Border Patrol seizes more marijuana after drug runners cross from Mexico

Mark Stevenson
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SASABE, Mexico — Weighed down by 50-pound sacks of marijuana, they hike through the desert for days to reach remote drop-off points in the United States, then sneak back across the Mexican border.

They are seldom illegal immigrants, but drug runners, physically fit and able to carry heavy loads for long distances. In some cases, it's been the family business for generations.

Lately, they're getting caught running more drugs than ever — often over the same desert routes used by undocumented migrants — with the U.S. Border Patrol reporting a sharp increase in the amount of marijuana seized.

The Border Patrol's Tucson, Ariz., sector confiscated almost as much marijuana in the first 7 1/2 months of this fiscal year as they did all of last year, and seizures are up all along the border.

"These are often second- and third-generation smugglers. This is what they do for a living, and once they deliver a load, they simply go back" into Mexico, said Gustavo Soto, a spokesman for the Tucson sector of the Border Patrol.

In Soto's sector, agents seized 441,482 pounds of marijuana between Oct. 1 and May 17, compared to about 489,000 pounds for all the preceding fiscal year ending in September. Across the entire border, the Border Patrol has seized 957,638 pounds of marijuana this year, up from 755,914 pounds in the same period last year.

That figures include drugs smuggled into the United States in vehicles driven into the desert, but increasing border security measures like fences and vehicle barriers appear to be making that more difficult.

Soto said the backpackers — known as narcotics "mules" — "wander in the desert for anywhere from two to possibly even four days until they get to their destination."

The drug runs are so difficult that Steve Robertson, a U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency special agent who has worked along the Texas border, says the average migrant couldn't make them.

Soto attributes the rise in seizures to increased border security, including sensors, cameras and a variety of desert vehicles.

But Mexico's Attorney General, Daniel Cabeza de Vaca, said cartels are also becoming more reliant on income from marijuana.

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Balk

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CEOs, if we can't trust sports and the athletes that play them, who can we trust?

Playing sports as a child, it was basketball that taught me the value of sharing when that extra pass resulted in an easier shot and better team chemistry. We'd call our own fouls, call it when the ball went out of bounds, until eventually we got to the point where no words needed to be said; we'd just raise our hand when we knew we had committed a

foul. We'd hand the ball over to the other team when we knew we'd knocked it out of bounds. In a very real way, we learned how much better life was when everyone was honest, cooperative and owned up to some personal responsibility.

Maybe sports are so important because of the simple outlet they can give for a father's love.

Whenever the right words could not be found to explain or offer comfort in any given situation, there was always one solution:

"Grab your glove." So we would play catch. Sometimes silently,

sometimes while talking about insignificant things (like say ... sports). And we'd throw and catch, throw and catch. Throw until all the problems of the world seemed to melt away and our only focus was getting into that perfect rhythm. That rhythm where you picked out in your mind exactly where that baseball was going to go, and your body followed suit and made it happen. Now that was therapeutic; that was relaxing. That was the creation of a bond through sports that allowed both of us to express our care for one another

without ever having to articulate it into words.

Those bonds created in sports can be seen everywhere. When players retire, they don't talk about missing the game as much as they miss the clubhouse or locker room. They miss just being around the guys on the team. They miss the kind of relationships that can only be built when a group of men (or women) come together and give everything they have — leave everything on the field — and fight for that common goal.

Looking at all of these cases, you can't tell me these things don't carry over to a person's life off the field.

You can't argue that all of these effects of sports don't build character and you can't convince me that sports aren't a microcosm of life.

So, getting back to the central question, are sports important? Are they a worthwhile endeavor? I can only answer with a resounding "yes."

There are obviously more important things in life — the next two years of my life come to mind — but we are all blessed to have this world of sports.

Thanks to Frank for giving me my weekly soapbox and painstakingly editing roughly 24,000 of my words, and thanks to my readers for finding the patience within themselves to sift through my obscure references and rants. Thanks to all my friends and family who have supported me along the way. But most of all thanks to ... well ... He knows.

In the words of a far better journalist, "Buenas noches y buena suerte." Good night and good luck.

Bradford Applin is a sophomore journalism major. For the next two years, important events in the world of sports should be e-mailed to bapplin@calpoly.edu.

The New York Times Crossword

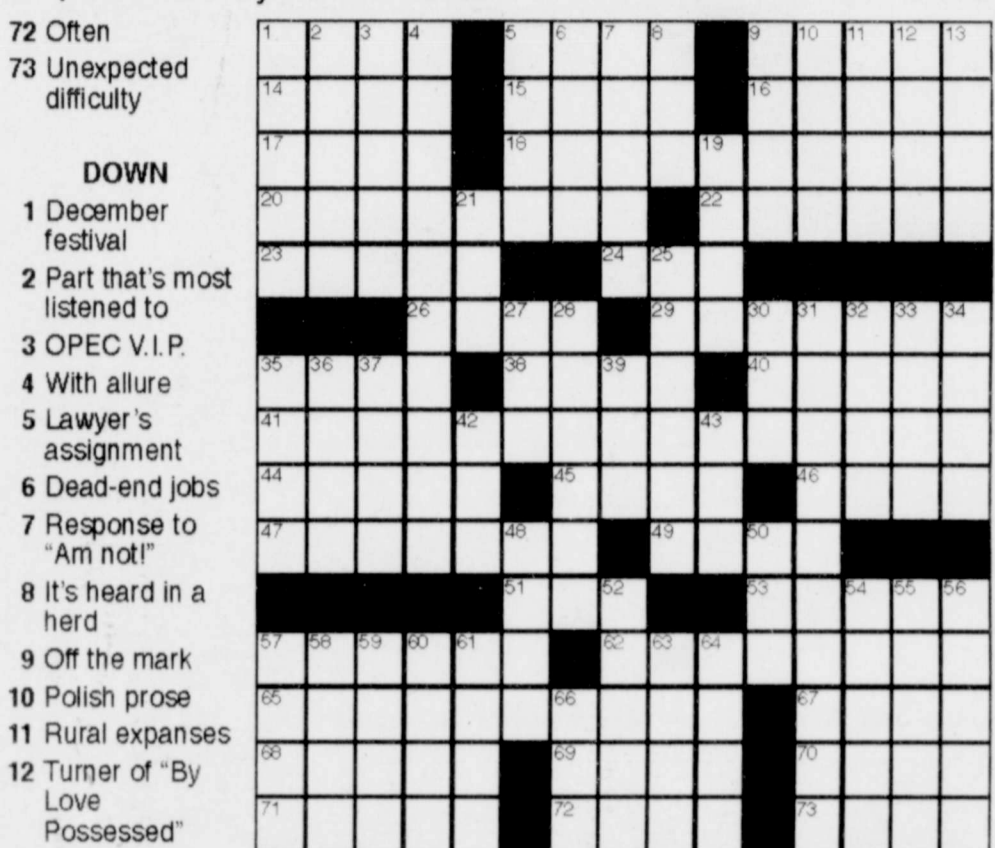
Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0413

- ACROSS**
- 1 Iowa town where John Wayne was born
 - 5 Zodiac symbol
 - 9 Source of abundance
 - 14 "___ shall unfold what plaited cunning hides": Shak.
 - 15 Vibrations
 - 16 Model
 - 17 Footnote word
 - 18 Flambéed beef entree
 - 20 Profundity
 - 22 Releases to fight
 - 23 Ground
 - 24 Ben Jonson wrote one to himself
 - 26 "Casablanca" role
 - 29 Censure
 - 35 Mideast port
- DOWN**
- 38 Hamburg's river
 - 40 Dog-___
 - 41 1962 #1 hit by the group hinted at in this puzzle's theme
 - 44 Jumps (out)
 - 45 Gift bearers
 - 46 Settings in word processing
 - 47 Nineveh's home
 - 49 Carrier at J.F.K.
 - 51 ___-cone
 - 53 Qualifying races
 - 57 Mideast capital
 - 62 Denial
 - 65 Carnegie Hall's main auditorium is named after him
 - 67 "___ Cop"
 - 68 Dig
 - 69 Music of India
 - 70 ___ unto himself
 - 71 1965 Beach Boys album

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

HOT MURAL ABBES
TAE AMEBA NIECE
THREEPENNY OPERA
PURR CEDAR TUT
ASPER RASH
SCATHE INKNOTS
ORD ARGOT IVAN
FOURQUARTERTIME
ACLU TRYME APR
SETDATE MAENAD
MEIR DUELS
IDO RILES SEGA
FIVEDOLLARWORDS
ICIER BLINI GAP
TEENY SARAN OYS



Puzzle by Barry Silk

- 35 Pop music acronym
- 36 "Buenos ___"
- 37 Auspices: Var.
- 39 Jamboree grp.
- 42 Land on the Medit. Sea
- 43 Try to loosen
- 48 Followers: Suffix
- 50 "I get it!"
- 52 Patrick of "The Way We Were"
- 54 Garlicky mayonnaise
- 55 Go ___ for
- 56 Skier's wish
- 57 Early August
- 58 Not new
- 59 Spanish hotel reservation
- 60 South American rodent
- 61 Super-duper
- 63 Thus
- 64 Black fly, e.g.
- 66 Singsong syllable

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Llamas looks to hurdle competition in Provo

Christina Casci
MUSTANG DAILY

Luke Llamas has a chance to become the second consecutive Cal Poly steeplechase runner to compete at the NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships. With a top-five finish at the West Regionals in Provo, Utah this weekend, Llamas would be on his way to the biggest race of his collegiate career.

However, his accomplishments on the track are a mere side conversation in the dialogue of his life — Llamas is a devout Christian and puts his involvement with ministry at the forefront of his being. As a religious studies minor at Cal Poly, Llamas plans to spend the rest of his life in ministry with his wife and is currently a chaplain with the county jail.

"It's pretty intense," Llamas said. "There are about 50 or 60 guys. I sit in a cell and they come over and talk to me one-on-one about their lives."

However intimidating it may sound, Llamas said he enjoys being able to preach the word of God and he sometimes forms a bond with the men.

"It's bad when you're sad to see guys get out of jail," he said. "You just don't want to stop seeing them."

While volunteering at the county jail is adequate for Llamas right now, he and his wife, Emerald, plan to go overseas as missionaries in Nairobi, Kenya someday, he said.

Life in the church takes precedence for Llamas; running is just another way to show his faith.



NICK CAMACHO MUSTANG DAILY

Luke Llamas was eighth at the California high school state meet in 2002 at Canyon High School and has significantly stepped up his efforts while at Cal Poly to become one of the top steeplechasers in the nation.

"As an athlete I strive to glorify God through athletics," he said, adding that it is important to Llamas to "use the gifts He gives me to the fullest."

His time preaching the word of God will take a brief break this week as Llamas heads to the West Regional to compete in the 3,000-meter steeplechase. Llamas has run the 13th-

fastest time in the nation this year at 8:45.34, good enough for fifth in the West Region.

Last year Llamas missed a trip to nationals, but gained valuable experience running behind one of the best in the nation and former teammate Ben Bruce.

In 2006, Llamas won the 5,000 and steeplechase at the Big West

Championships, a performance that segued to his award for the Big West Male Athlete of the Year.

"Your attitude says a lot," Llamas said. "This one time at a big meet while I was running the 5k, my shoe came off in the second lap of the race and I couldn't finish. My attitude could have totally gone to depressed. It is a test of your character."

For novice track aficionados, the steeplechase is a 7 1/2 lap race — the first 200 is hurdle-free, but for the next seven laps there are five 3-foot barriers to hurdle. At the opposite side of one barrier is a pit of water to hurdle — mistime your jump and you could soon be swimming.

Llamas runs between 60 and 70 miles per week and compliments that with miscellaneous abdomen and core strengthening exercises.

The Canyon Country native draws on numerous motivational forces for training, but one of the biggest changes this off-season was his "beautiful wife" Emerald, whom Llamas married last summer. Since marrying Emerald, who is studying nursing at Cuesta College, Llamas said his training has improved along with his eating and sleeping habits.

Luke isn't the only Llamas competing in the Big West. His brother, Landen Llamas, runs the 400 and 800 for Cal State Northridge.

The top competition for Luke at the West regional will come from a pair of Arizona State runners — Aaron Aguayo and Ryan Warrenburg, ranked No. 1 and 3 in the West Region. Josh McAdams of host Brigham Young University and Jon Pierce of Stanford round out the top five at No. 2 and 4, respectively.

In spite of his success, Llamas remains humble about his accomplishments. He said his teammates often care more about his success.

"(My talent) is a gift I've been given and if it ever gets taken away, I want to accept that too," he said.

Rodeo teams gear up for another trip to national championships

Jandy Jones
MUSTANG DAILY

Summer vacation may have to wait for a select group of students. The Cal Poly rodeo team will spend its first couple days of summer competing at the National Intercollegiate Rodeo College Finals.

The Cal Poly rodeo team dominated the West Coast region of the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association (NIRA). After competing in nine rodeos, the team won both the men's and women's team divisions.

Nine members will travel to

Casper, Wyo. to compete in the NIRA College Finals, coach Frank Mello said.

The college rodeo season lasts from September to May with the finals rodeo in June. Cal Poly is in the West Coast region and competes against eight other universities and junior colleges in California and Nevada.

Going into the finals, the team is ranked No. 1 in its region and No. 7 nationally.

This year's team consists of Dallas Osburn, Ben Londo, Elliot French, Ted Burt, Joe Clarot, Jodi Coppini, Kelsey Johnson, Sadie Myers and Kalli

Collins.

Osburn will be competing in team roping and saddle bronc. Londo will be competing in bareback and saddle bronc. French will also be in the saddle bronc event. Burt will be entered in the steer wrestling and bull riding events. Clarot will represent Cal Poly in the tie-down roping.

For the women's team, Coppini will compete in goat tying and breakaway. Johnson and Myers will represent Cal Poly in the breakaway also. Collins will compete in the goat tying event also.

While in Casper, Londo hopes to

spend some time with his father. Londo, junior in construction management and native of Oregon, is making his third trip to the college finals.

Unlike Londo, this will mark the last year for some of the team members and their coach. Coppini, Myers and Osburn will be competing in their last college finals because they are graduating. This will also be Mello's last year as a coach.

"I've enjoyed (coaching) so much and it has been a great experience," Mello said.

His last day will be June 30 and

Tony Branquinho will take over for him. Branquinho is from Los Alamos and comes from a family that competes in rodeos at a professional level.

He said that Branquinho is a local and will do a great job with the rodeo team. Mello is leaving the program because he only intended to be the coach for one year, but said he will stay on for the next year as a consultant to make sure that Branquinho's transition is smooth.

Mello has enjoyed working with everyone in and out of the program and that the experience has been great.

SPORTS BALK



WITH BRAD

The Last One

Well, I guess this is it — the last thousand words you'll hear from this columnist (for at least two years that is). Why you may ask? Allow me to elaborate...

This summer I will be embarking to Cuernavaca, Mexico on a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Yes, I'm Mormon. Yes, for two years I'll be trotting along the equator, attempting to testify to people what I know to be true, inviting them to read a peculiar little blue book that has changed my life.

While I have been simultaneously preparing for my mission and going to school, I have still maintained this weekly sports column. Which raises the obvious question that I have even been

asking myself. Why?

Why would someone like myself, who claims to have such an eternal perspective, such a different set of priorities in my life, care about sports? Why care enough to write a column ranting about something as inconsequential as a basketball score? Does it really matter, in the grand scheme of things, how many yards Ben Roethlisberger passed for in the Super Bowl? (123) Why do numbers such as 755, 100, 2,632 and 5,084 mean so much to me?

A wise man named Alma once said, "All things denote there is a God; yea, even all the earth, and all things that are upon the face of it."

When I watch in awe at a home run, I don't see a ball traveling 400 feet into the cheap seats. I see the payoff of a lifetime of practice and determination manifesting itself in the form of a 34-inch piece of wood snapping through the air at over 60 miles per hour and making contact with a five-ounce ball wrapped in leather. I see

the triumph of a silent battle of wit and wills between the pitcher and batter; I see something special.

I may be bordering on blasphemy, but I find faith in sports. Sports — since my earliest memories of childhood — have always resonated with me.

Perhaps it's because in sports there is a level playing field; at least more than in any other facet of life. Everyone has to play by the same set of rules and regulations. For 60 minutes, 9 innings, 48 minutes or 10 rounds, everyone has an equal opportunity. Sports are founded on the idea that everything is fair (as humanly possible) and justice is served when the best man wins.

It could be argued that this is why the public responds with such outrage to scandals like steroids or gambling; anything challenging the sanctity of sports often shakes our foundations. In a world of corrupt politicians and scheming

see Balk, page 15